The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor generally in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains labor information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE— 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN WAR SAVINGS BONDS FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1624 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 21

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Actions speak louder than words.

The American Federation of Labor unions have said little with regard to President Roosevelt's program for stabilizing the cost of living because there is nothing to cheer about in a plan that would unquestionably keep wages down.

However, the unions of the AFL have acted.

The leaders of nineteen building and construction trade unions have agreed with the Government to stabilize the wages of their 1,500,000 members for the duration of the war. The unions have provided for the adjustment of rank injustices and inequities but its effect will be to keep wage levels in the construction industry at their present levels until the war is over.

Likewise, the Metal Trades Department of the AFL has acted. Meeting in Chicago with the representatives of the shipbuilding industry and the Government, the heads of this department negotiated an agreement stabilizing wages for 700,000 shipyard workers, most of whom are AFL members. Under this agreement, a substantial portion of wage increases due under contracts with employers was waived at President Roosevelt's request.

By such outstanding actions, the AFL is demonstrating to the entire nation that American labor is willing to take it on the chin if necessary to help win the war.

Peace and Patriotism

Also more eloquent than mere words is the action of the American Federation of Labor in renewing at this time its standing offer to make peace with the CIO and merge the two organizations into a united labor movement.

In this case, the AFL can't act alone. It must receive the willing cooperation of the CIO. It takes two sides to make peace. As yet, no favorable response has been forthcoming from the CIO. The leaders of the CIO are great ones to talk about peace, but they seem to be more than a little shy of doing something about it.

Again actions speak louder than words.

This time the Executive Council of the AFL spooks up for the Treasury Department's 10 per cent payroll allotment plan for the purchase of war bonds by American workers.

Patriotism is cheap when it involves merely flag-waving and pretty speeches. But when the representatives of millions of workers of this country definitely commit themselves to a proposal to turn over 10 per cent of their weekly wages to the Government of the United States as a loan for victory, that means something. And we're delighted to report that the response of the membership has been amazingly favorable.

Organizing the Unorganized

Finally, we wish to call attention to the report on membership submitted to the Executive Council by Secretary-Treasurer George Meany. Here again, actions speak. Others may talk of organizing the unorganized. The AFL is actually doing it.

Consider the figures. When the CIO split off from the AFL and set up in business for itself in 1937, the membership of the Federation was at the low level of 2,860,933. The AFL then voted additional funds for organizing and the drive went into action.

Year by year the results became evident. By 1938 the membership had jumped up to more than 3,000,000. Next year the AFL topped the four million mark. In 1940 another quarter of a million members had been added. In 1941 the total had been boosted to over 4,500,000.

And now, as of April 30, the AFL membership has reached the all-time high mark of 5,441,952. In other words within four years by all-out action the AFL has doubled its membership. That is progress! And it should be emphasized that this is dues-paid membership. The figures do not include a floating membership of perhaps 500,000 which is not on a dues paying basis.

Let's go over the top with six million members by the end of this year!

CONVENTION CALENDAR

1942

(Following is a list of conventions scheduled for this year by national and international unions and State Federations of Labor under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. This list is not final or complete. Additions will be announced later.)

Opening Date 1942	Name of Union	Place
*Jan 19	Masters, Mates and Pilots	Washington, D.C.
*Feb. 9	Michigan State Federation	Port Huron, Mich.
*March	Puerto Rico State Federation	Humacao, P. R.
*March 16	Florida State Federation	Pensacola, Fla.
*March 23	Roofers	Philadelphia, Pa.
*March 23	Seafarers	
*April 6	Louisiana State Federation	New Orleans, La.
*April 15	Georgia State Federation	Augusta, Ga.
*April 20	Alabama State Federation	Birmingham, Ala.
*May 4	Pocketbook Workers	Atlantic City, N. J.
*May 4	Pennsylvania State Federation	Scranton, Pa.
*May 8	Kansas State Federation	Wichita, Kans.
*May 11	Building Service Employees	Minneapolis, Minn.
*May 11	Arkansas State Federation	El Dorado, Ark.
*May 18	Maryland-D. C. State Federation	Hagerstown, Md.
*May 18	Missouri State Federation	Sedalia, Mo.
*May 19	Virginia State Federation	Lynchburg, Va.
June 1	Stage Employes	Columbus, Ohio
June 1	Upholsterers	Chicago, Ill.
June 1	Tennessee State Federation	Chattanooga, Tenn.
June 8	American Federation of Musicians	Dallas, Tex.
June 8	Order of Railroad Telegraphers	Waterville, N. Y.
June 9	Maine State Federation	New York City
June 15	Jewelry Workers	New York City
June 15	Pattern Makers	Washington, D.C.
June 15	Flate Printers, Die Stampers	Colorado Spgs., Col.
June 16	Colorado State Federation	Fort Worth, Tex.
June 22	Texas State Federation	Charleston, S. C.
June 22	South Carolina State Federation	Reno, Nev.
June 27	Nevada State Federation	Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 27	Metal Engravers	New York City
July 6	Glass Bottle Blowers	Atlantic City, N. J.
*July	Operative Potters	Hattiesburg, Miss.
*July	Mississippi State Federation	Everett, Wash.
July	Washington State Federation	Albany, N. Y.
July 20	Stereotypers and Electrotypers	Wallace, Idaho
Aug. 3	Idaho State Federation	Iowa City, Iowa
Aug. 3	Iowa State Federation	Springfield, Mass.
Aug. 3	Massachusetts Federation	Michigan City, Ind.
Aug. 3	Unified Garment Workers	A'ville, N. C.
Aug. 10	North Carolina State Federation	Barre, Vt.
Aug. 15	Vermont State Federation	Kansas City, Mo.
Aug. 17	International Fur Workers	Gary, Ind.
Aug. 17	American Federation of Teachers	Long Beach, Cal.
Aug. 17	California State Federation	Rochester, N. Y.
Aug. 17	New York State Federation	Milwaukee, Wis.
Aug. 17	Wisconsin State Federation	Indianapolis, Ind.
Aug.	Rural Letter Carriers	Columbus, Ohio
Aug. 24	Ohio State Federation	Great Falls, Mont.
Aug. 25	Montana State Federation	Grand Forks, N. D.
Sept. 6	North Dakota State Federation	Undecided
Sept. 7	Connecticut State Federation	Toronto, Ont., Can.
Sept. 8	Asbestos Workers	Beatrice, Neb.
Sept. 14	Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers	Pryor, Utah
Sept. 14	Nebraska State Federation	Atlantic City, N. J.
Sept. 14	Utah State Federation	Chicago, Ill.
Sept. 14	Distillery, Rectifying and Wine	Atlantic City, N. J.
Sept. 14	Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers	St. Louis, Mo.
Sept. 14	Plumbers and Steamfitters	Undecided
Sept. 15	Sleeping Car Porters	El Paso, Tex.
Sept.	Brick and Clay Workers	Lebanon, N. H.
Sept.	Firefighters Association	Tucson, Ariz.
Sept. 19	New Hampshire State Federation	Peoria, Ill.
Sept. 21	Arizona State Federation	Ashland, Ky.
Sept. 21	Illinois State Federation	Winona, Minn.
Sept. 21	Kentucky State Federation	South Bend, Ind.
Sept. 21	Minnesota State Federation	Fairmont, W. Va.
Sept. 21	Indiana State Federation	Atlantic City, N. J.
Sept. 24	West Virginia State Federation	Silver City, N. M.
Sept.	New Jersey State Federation	Baltimore, Md.
Sept.	New Mexico State Federation	Undecided
Oct. 2	Journeymen Horse Shoers	Washington, D. C.
Nov. 11	Master Mechanics and Foremen	
Nov.	Navy Yards	

* Conventions already held this year.

? Date not yet definitely set.

LABOR FOR VICTORY!

Tune In May 30 For All-Star Show

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor presents "The Pageant of American Labor"; an original dramatic show written by Ben Hecht and performed by an all-star cast headed by Melvyn Douglas, as its next "Labor for Victory" radio offering on May 30 over a nation-wide NBC network.

Don't miss this brilliant presentation! It will be without question the most interesting and effective radio show ever put on by a labor organization in this country. It tells the story, ignored by historians, of what working men and women have done for America from Revolutionary days up to the present time.

The show is being produced and directed by Mr. Louis Schaefer, supervisor of the Cultural Division of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, in collaboration with the Information Division of the American Federation of Labor.

Everyone connected with this outstanding production, including Mr. Hecht and Mr. Douglas, is giving his services free of charge as a contribution to the cause of labor.

Don't forget to tune in at 10.15 P.M., Eastern War Time, Saturday night, May 30 on your local NBC station for this great show.

Building Trades Sign New Pact Stabilizing Wages For Duration

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Building and Construction Trades Unions, with 1,500,000 members, voluntarily agreed to stabilize wages for the duration of the war in a memorandum of agreement signed with the Government.

The union representatives, meeting with Secretary of Labor Perkins, declared they took this drastic action to assist and implement President Roosevelt's appeal to prevent runaway inflation and to help win the war.

The agreement stabilizes wages in the construction industry as of July 1, 1942, for the duration. A Wage Adjustment Board was established by Secretary Perkins, under the chairmanship of Assistant Secretary of Labor Dan W. Tracy, to make pay adjustments in certain cases.

Such adjustments were permitted in the agreement where wage rates are inadequate because (1) they were fixed so long before July 1, 1942, as to be out of line with prevailing rates; (2) they apply to a locality where changing conditions in the industry require revising in the pay scales; or (3) they do not sufficiently take into account any abnormal change in conditions.

Aside from these exceptions, the terms of the agreement provide that no changes will be made in wage rates for the period of at least one year, subject to renewal for the duration of the war.

President Roosevelt approved the plan and authorized Secretary Perkins to set up the Wage Adjustment Board.

Padway Slams Arnold's Campaign Against American Trade Unions

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Executive Council approved a report submitted by Joseph A. Padway, counsel for the American Federation of Labor, on anti-trust prosecutions by the United States Attorney General Thurman Arnold.

Mr. Padway listed 38 anti-trust indictments against labor unions. Every case that has been carried to the Supreme Court, he pointed out, has been decided in favor of the defendants. Mr. Padway's report continued:

"Despite his highly financed and widely advertised campaign, Mr. Arnold has utterly failed to establish any one of his dangerous legal and economic concepts. On the contrary, the Supreme Court has unanimously and completely repudiated his theories.

"His reckless adventure in labor law has resulted not only in a large waste of public funds, but also in untold and unwarranted public hostility, not to mention personal harassment of labor union officials and the grossly unjust effort to undermine the trade union movement in the public eye.

"It would have been bad enough if organized labor had been victimized by a sincere but misguided public servant who mistakenly interpreted the law he was under duty to enforce. But Mr. Arnold has demonstrated quite conclusively that his public office was but a convenient and effective means of seeking to attain his anti-union objectives. The laws of Congress mean little to him, and the decisions of the United States Supreme Court even less.

"Clear it is that Mr. Arnold can no longer carry on his profession as a public law enforcement agent. Nevertheless, he continues to exploit the prestige of his high office to menace and harass organized labor. He is now actively engaged in supporting restrictive legislation and in making public speeches and writing vicious articles to support such legislation.

"It is not the purpose of this report to deal with the prosecutions brought by the Anti-Trust Division against employer monopolies and trusts. No one has ever denied that the anti-trust laws were obviously intended to apply to trusts and monopolies on the part of large industrial concerns. But, even in these prosecutions Mr. Arnold undoubtedly exceeded the proper limits of his authority. Large corporations contested that they had been unjustly maligned and harassed; that they could not effectively make their contributions to the war effort unless the Anti-Trust Division at least declared a truce for the duration of the war. Their protests proved successful. An agreement for a truce was reached, and it received the express approval of the President of the United States.

"If the promotion of the war effort and general public expediency requires a truce between the Government and capital, then the same factors, plus common justice, demand an authoritative and conclusive halt to the infamous Arnold campaign against organized labor, and a dismissal of all pending indictments against trade unions. This is especially so since the United States Supreme Court has ruled against Mr. Arnold's concepts involved in labor union prosecutions."

British Study AFL Answer To Plan For International Labor Setup

Washington, D. C.—Sir Walter Citrine, secretary of the British Trades Union congress, presented before the AFL Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in a three-hour session in advance a proposal for collaboration of the British, Soviet and American labor movements in the war effort.

After giving careful consideration to his plan, the Executive Council formulated a reply and submitted it to Sir Walter.

"I cannot make public the decision of the Executive Council in this matter because Sir Walter Citrine has reported its nature to his colleagues in Great Britain and is awaiting their reaction," President William Green told his press conference.

Citrine, who came to this country from London by clipper to appear before the Executive Council, took part in the press conference but indicated the subject matter of this visit was of such delicate international import that he preferred not to discuss it in detail.

M. J. FINNAN DIES; FORMER SEC'Y LETTER CARRIERS

Washington, D. C.—Michael T. Finnan, former secretary of the National Association of Letter Carriers, died here at the age of seventy-six.

For a quarter of a century Mr. Finnan was one of the best known labor leaders in Government employes' unions. He served as secretary of the Letter Carriers from 1917 to 1941 and also as editor of the Postal Record. He retired last year.

After funeral services here, the body will be sent to Bloomingdale, Ill., for burial.

HARVESTER CO. EMPLOYES ENDORSE UNION SECURITY

Chicago, Ill.—A union security poll at eight plants of the International Harvester Co., first to be conducted by the National War Labor Board, showed 91 per cent favoring maintenance of membership and 1,000 CIO local unions.

Results were 9,716 favoring maintenance of membership and 1,000 against. Only 57 per cent of the 17,165 employes eligible to vote took part in the election, conducted under the supervision of Thomas F. Nesbett, chief WWLB mediator. A maintenance of membership clause will automatically go into effect in agreements negotiated two weeks ago.

Green Extends Peace Bid to CIO; Says Unity Will Help Win War And Advance Interests of Labor

We Raise Our Sights!

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor has raised its sights in its nation-wide organizing drive.

Our new goal is six million members in 1942.

This new mark to shoot at was set after Secretary-Treasurer George Meany reported to the Executive Council that total dues-paid membership in the American Federation of Labor aggregated 5,441,592 as of April 30, 1942.

This is the highest membership figure ever reached in the entire history of the Federation.

It represents a gain of 615,273 new members since Jan. 1 of this year, Mr. Meany disclosed. The gain since Aug. 30, 1941, the end of the Federation's last fiscal year, was 872,536.

"We are confident," Mr. Meany told the Executive Council, "that we will exceed this year the goal of a million new members set at our last convention. Our organization drives are bringing many thousands of new members into American Federation of Labor unions each month."

The figures released by Mr. Meany do not include a floating membership estimated at 500,000 which is not on a dues-paying basis.

Labor Clears Decks For All-Out War-Time Shipbuilding Program

Wage Stabilization Pact By AFL Unions Receives Widest Praise

Washington, D. C.—American labor cleared the nation's decks for an all-out shipbuilding construction program that will keep the life-lines to the United Nations open and foil the Axis threat to wipe our shipping from the seas by submarine warfare.

Representatives of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor succeeded in negotiating a nation-wide agreement to stabilize wages in the shipyards and to introduce "round-the-clock production, seven days a week, in all yards.

The wage agreement for the country's 700,000 shipyard workers will play a big part in achieving victory in the war. It was arrived at, following a three-week conference in Chicago, sponsored by the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, a unit of the War Production Board. It is subject to ratification by local unions and shipbuilders.

Under that pact, wages are stabilized at a uniform national figure for the same crafts in every building yard, new ships, thus curbing migration of workers from yard to yard, and pirating of skilled labor by employers offering extra inducements. The result will be greater stability of employment and more production, the War Board declared.

A significant feature of the agreement is that unions made a notable sacrifice, accepting less than they were entitled to under existing contracts which called for adjustments in accordance with the rise in the cost of living.

Labor's action drew praise throughout the nation, and even the worst of the anti-labor newspapers found it necessary, as a matter of news, to give space to the workers' contribution.

Under present agreements, the workers would have been granted pay raises averaging 13 per cent, but they surrendered about 7 per cent in compliance with an appeal from President Roosevelt that they refrain from asking for the full amount so as to put a brake on inflation.

Furthermore, the workers promised to invest the increase in war savings stamps and bonds, and to pledge that the bonds would not be cashed except in cases of extreme emergency.

In terms of hourly rates, the boost was 8 cents an hour for workers in Pacific, Atlantic and Great Lakes yards, and from 9 to 13 cents in the Gulf yards, where there had been a differential below the rest of the country.

The new rate for shipbuilding mechanics will be $1.20 an hour throughout the country and classifications in which some yards, particularly on the East Coast, had classified on standard rates, for wiped out.

The new rates are effective to June 1, 1942, but if the government's Price control program proves a "flop" and living costs keep climbing, then the wages are to be reviewed on October 1 of this year.

Another important feature of the agreement is that the program of "non-stop" operation, previously inaugurated on the West Coast, with the approval of AFL unions, will be extended to all shipyards.

Under that program, Saturdays and Sundays are treated as regular workdays. Employes are paid normal rates for the first two eight-hour days, time and one-half for the sixth day, and double time if called for a seventh consecutive day, no matter in what part of the week it falls.

President John P. Frey and Secretary-Treasurer Joseph McDonagh of the AFL Metal Trades Department played leading roles in bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Executive Council Endorses 10 Percent War Bond Allotments

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Executive Council wholeheartedly endorsed the proposal of the Treasury Department that American workers allot 10 per cent of their weekly pay for the purchase of war bonds and stamps.

"We urge all members of the American Federation of Labor to subscribe to the limit of their ability," the Council said.

"Every citizen must help to pay the costs of this war. Labor is doing and will continue to do its full share.

"War bonds are the safest and soundest investment anywhere in the world today. By purchasing them to the limit of our ability, we not only help America—we help ourselves. The immediate effect will be to aid the national war effort and to control disastrous inflation. The future effect will be to provide a cushion of savings against the shock of post-war industrial readjustments.

"Every trade union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor is investing its funds in war bonds to the limit prescribed by the Government.

"The members of these unions are responding in an inspiring way to our pay-allotment appeals for the purchase of bonds and stamps. It now appears certain that the one-billion-dollar goal set by the American Federation of Labor will be oversubscribed by its members.

"The best way of making certain that each of us does his part is to arrange to allot 10 per cent of our weekly pay for this patriotic purpose."

CHICAGO OFFICE WORKERS WIN TWO NLRB DECISIONS

Chicago, Ill.—AFL office Employes Union Local 20752, which carried on long strikes last winter against the Cuneo Press and the Polish National Alliance, won a victory in two decisions of the National Labor Relations Board. In both cases the board ordered reinstatement of strikers with back pay and ordered the firms to cease discouraging membership in the local.

UNR-USO AGREE ON PLANS TO AID MEN IN SERVICE

New York City.—Labor may now join local USO committees throughout the country and draw up programs with the USO for social and goodwill work for the members of our armed forces with the assurance of full recognition for everything it does, according to Matthew Woll, AFL vice president and president of United Nations Relief of the Labor League for Human Rights.

AFL Chief Invites Murray To Meet At Suggestion of Executive Council

Washington, D. C.—President William Green publicly renewed the American Federation of Labor's standing offer to make peace with the CIO and merge the two organizations into a united labor movement.

The announcement came as the dramatic conclusion of the Spring meeting of the AFL Executive Council, which instructed President Green to invite CIO President Philip Murray to resume peace negotiations immediately.

Mr. Green emphasized that the unity bid was motivated by two outstanding considerations:

1—That a united American labor movement could act more effectively to help America win the war.

2—That instead of labor's wasting its strength in organizational rivalry and jurisdictional strife, a united labor movement could concentrate its energies on improving the economic, social and political interests of the working men and women of this country.

Because of the war, Mr. Green stressed, it is most important that unity and solidarity be established in the labor movement without delay. The benefits to the nation, as well as to the workers, would be incalculable, he said.

In reply to questions at his press conference, Mr. Green declared the peace move should be welcomed by the Administration.

No immediate response was forthcoming from the CIO. It is expected that Mr. Green's invitation to resume negotiations for a settlement of the differences between the two organizations will be considered at the CIO Executive Board meeting which opens on June 3.

However, newspapermen encountered a negative reaction when they questioned Murray. Because the CIO is at present involved in embarrassing difficulties with its largest affiliated union, the United Mine Workers, it appeared possible that it would reject the AFL offer.

Mr. Green said that the AFL's standing peace committee, made up of Vice Presidents Harry C. Bates, Daniel J. Tobin and William L. Hutcheson, would hold themselves in readiness to meet with a similar committee from the CIO at any time.

The AFL action is fully consistent with its established policy of seeking to unite the labor movement whenever an opportunity to do so occurs.

It serves notice on the entire nation that there is no satisfactory substitute for actual organic unity in labor. The CIO, caught in internal difficulties, has been trying to make it appear that functional unity was more desirable than organic unity.

However, considerable evidence was presented to the Executive Council showing that while CIO leaders paraded publicity of functional unity their local representatives were carrying on open warfare against established AFL unions in the field.

Before adjourning the Executive Council decided to hold its next meeting in Atlantic City Aug. 4 when its report to the October convention of the AFL will be drafted.

BUTLER NAMED OFFICIAL OF BRITISH EMBASSY

Washington, D. C.—The appointment of Harold Beresford Butler, to an important post in the British Embassy in Washington, is announced.

Mr. Butler is well known for his long connections with the International Labor Office. He was a member of the British delegation to the Peace Conference of 1919 and participated in the deliberations of the Labor Commission of the conference which resulted in the establishment of the International Labor Organization. He also organized the First International Labor Conference in Washington in 1919 and with the assistance of E. J. Phelan, now acting director of the I. L. O., developed this new venture in international cooperation which later became an international institution of parliament.

When the International Labor Office was set up after the Washington conference Mr. Butler became its deputy director under Albert Thomas as director. On the death of Mr. Thomas in 1932 Mr. Butler was chosen as his successor and held the office of director until the end of 1938, when he resigned in order to take up the post of Warden of the newly-created Nuffield College at Oxford, England.

During his administration of the I. L. O. Mr. Butler secured the active participation of the Latin-American countries. He was also largely responsible for the adhesion of the United States to the office of International Labor Organization.